

Applicant: Archer et al.
Application Serial No.: 10/779,485
Filing Date: February 13, 2004
Docket No.: 577-526 CON
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REMARKS

The application has been amended. Claims 1, 11 and 19 have been amended.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The undersigned counsel wishes to thank Examiners Harris and Dinkins for the courtesies which were extended at a personal interview conducted at the United States Patent and Trademark Office on February 15, 2006. As reflected in the Interview Summary, undersigned counsel provided a sample of the claimed electrical outlet box and discussed with the Examiners the claim limitations as well as the disclosure of the prior art. As a result of these discussions, the Examiners agreed that certain proposed changes to the claims, which were discussed, would overcome the prior art rejection. This amendment is being filed in response to those discussions.

The specification of the present invention has been amended. Paragraphs [0026] and [0028] of the specification have been amended as discussed with the Examiner in order to correct certain inconsistencies in the reference numerals. In addition, a proposed drawing amendment to Figure 6 is submitted. This proposed drawing amendment also corrects certain inconsistencies in the reference numeral in the figures. Entry of the changes to the specification, as well as the drawing amendments, is respectfully requested.

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Independent claims 1, 12 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,147,304 to Doherty in view of U.S. Patent No. D462,664 to Roesch, et al. (hereinafter Roesch). The independent claims of the present application have been amended to more clearly recite that the electrical box mounts an electrical fixture therein and the supporting structure accommodates a communications fixture therein.

Moreover, claims 1 and 19 have been amended to clearly recite that the distances referred to in the claims are measured from the first sidewall. As explained to the Examiners at the interview, neither Doherty nor Roesch taken individually or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest, *inter alia*, first and second mounting axes which are equidistant from and on opposite sides of a first sidewall with the first mounting axis being closer to the first sidewall than the second sidewall. As such, and as agreed to by the Examiners, the amended independent claims define patentably over the combination of Doherty and Roesch.

Having therefore responded in full to the present office action, it is respectfully submitted that the application, including claims 1-17 and 19, is in condition for allowance. Favorable action thereon is respectfully solicited.

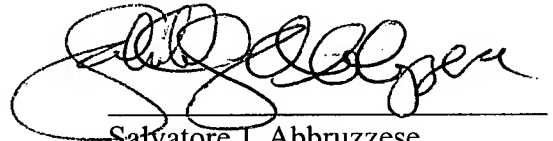
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No.

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20-0776. Such authorization includes authorization to charge fees for extensions of time, if any, under 37 C.F.R § 1.17 and also should be treated as a constructive petition for an extension of time in this reply or any future reply pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this response, the undersigned would be pleased to address them by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Salvatore J. Abbruzzese', written over a horizontal line.

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 6. In Figure 6, previously omitted elements 16a' and 16c' have been added. Reference numeral "d₁" was changed to --d₄--.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

A circular black and white stamp. The text "OIP" is at the top, "MAR 08 2006" is in the center, and "INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE" is around the bottom edge.

